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THE NEW ER
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FROM THE C
ASSOCIATE GEN
156 FIFTH AVE

Fellow Publicity Director,

This leaflet has jus
fied within two weeks. It is th
connection with effort to comple
gifts for debt on account of the

The Xn Practice of Toleration.

Rom.14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

The question of toleration came before the Apostles in two forms:

Can any but Jews be true Christians?

Shall Xns be tolerated who differ from us in point of belief?

Our difficulty in understanding the first question.

Jews regarded the holding of truth as property.

Their monopoly of the Truth.

Paul's answer tothe second Question.

All variations of belief were to be patiently borne and were not to be discredited where the parties holding them give evidence of true godliness in practice and disposition.

Paul recognizes the rightof men to form and adopt religious opinions, subject only to God's judgment. "Every one of us must give account of himself to God.

Character-making is the object of Xty, not the making of systems of belief.

I. What is toleration?

1. Not simply forbearance or indifferencetoward those who disagree.
2. It is accepting men for the Christ that is in their daily lives and practice regardless of what peculiar views they hold.

II. The Grounds of Toleration.

1. Not a compliment or a favor bestowed, nor a sign of your own goodness or piety or mercy.
2. It is simply your Xn duty, a solemn obligation derived from the right of men to use their own conscience and reason in matters bewteen themselves and God.
3. It is a Xn attainment requiring the recognition of the rights of others and the practice of humility and the suppression of egotistical pride. It requires that measure of faith which trusts God to guide men along ~~paths of righteousness~~ very poor paths of belief.

Objections.

1. Does not toleration so explained invalidate the importance of right belief? And does it not mean that it matters not what belief a man may hold?

   a. A man is judged by his disposition, habits and character. Whatever belief a man holds will sooner or later influence his character. "By their fruits ye shall judge them"

   b. In fact, men hold many beliefs both good and bad that do not influence their lives to any great extent. Other influences are shaping the man- heredity, education, home influences, personal associations, business and social environment, etc

2. But if we tolerate error, do we not endorse it?

   Ans. We do not tolerate ~~error~~ the belief of a man but the man himself. Thus you bear witness that true godliness is more important than the means which were used to produce it. You recognize the fact that every man has a duty to God and that you have no right to interfere with it.

Con. A Man without convictions cannot be said to tolerate the beliefs of others- he is simply indifferent to them. It is the man of convictions who respects the convictions of others that is truly tolerant.

For this reason it is possible for several denominations to unite for work and worship. Such union emphasizes the need to practice this)n virtue of toloration. And it does so by magnifying the thing we all as Xns hold in common instead of intensifying our differences of belief and interpretation.